

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
New England  
1 Congress Street  
Suite 1100 (SPN)  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England

- THE EPA -

MERCURY CHALLENGE

PARTNERS-TO-PARTNERS

DIRECTORY

WE HELP PROTECT THE NEW ENGLAND ENVIRONMENT.



Recognizing and rewarding New England's commitment  
to environmental improvement.

welcome

Widespread exposure to mercury is among the most serious environmental health risks in New England. Medical facilities can make a major difference in helping to reduce mercury in the environment. That's why the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New England Office is using its existing Partners for Change program to focus on mercury reductions by establishing the Partners for Change: Mercury Challenge. With this program, EPA New England challenges New England medical facilities to lead the nation in eliminating mercury and/or mercury-containing waste by 2003. We have created this recognition program to promote voluntary, measurable reductions of mercury in medical facilities.

Mercury is a highly toxic, naturally occurring metal that moves between water, air and soil as a result of natural and human activities. The primary health effects of mercury are in the neurological development of children exposed through fish consumption and fetuses exposed through their mother's consumption of fish. Removing mercury thermometers and other mercury-containing equipment from the health care industry waste stream is one of the most effective methods of reducing the amount of mercury in the environment.

This Partners-to-Partners Directory lists our 1999 Mercury Challenge Partners, a description of their activities, and information about the program for those not yet enrolled.

I congratulate our Partners for their good work and hope they will continue to expand their mercury reduction efforts and encourage others to join them.

**Mindy S. Lubber**  
Regional Administrator  
EPA New England



## notes and numbers

Attach additional pages if necessary.

**application**

8

Describe your mercury reduction activities for the current year.

9

If you have mercury reductions from activities prior to the current year, please describe. How much of your mercury goal had been accomplished prior to the year you joined the Mercury Challenge Program?

To the best of my knowledge, \_\_\_\_\_ (NAME OF ORGANIZATION) is not currently involved in any formal federal, state or local administrative or judicial environmental enforcement action.

Some applicants may have actions with local regulators that may not exclude them from participation from the program. Please specify the situation(s) and a determination will be made regarding your eligibility in the program. If you have questions about your enforcement status, contact EPA at 617- 918-1795 or 617- 918-1847.

SIGNATURE

NAME (PRINT CLEARLY)

TITLE

ADDRESS

Mail application to: EPA  
NEEAT  
Suite 1100 (SPN)  
1 Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

**maine partners****Maine Medical Center**

22 Bramhall Street  
Portland, ME 04102  
Tel: (207) 871-2513

Contact: Jeffrey C. Sanborn

- Tertiary care health research and education • 606 beds

The Maine Medical Center is being recognized for its mercury reduction plan which included identifying any mercury sources which have acceptable substitutes or reduced mercury alternatives. The Hazardous Material and Waste Committee will forward identified substitutes and submit those products to the product evaluation committee. This year Maine Medical Center expanded its existing Nickel-Cadmium, Lithium and Mercury battery program to include alkaline battery recycling. The medical center was already collecting mercury hazardous waste and having it recycled. In addition, the medical center has also been phasing out mercury blood pressure cuffs as they wear out.

**massachusetts partners****Baystate Medical Center (BMC)**

759 Chestnut Street  
Springfield, MA 01199  
Tel: (413) 794-5229

Contact: Mary B. Glavin

- Acute care hospital • 579 beds • 57 bassinets

The Baystate Medical Center (BMC) is being recognized for its mercury reduction activities which include replacing 700 mercury containing blood pressure cuffs in their in-patient and out-patient area. This resulted in 240 lbs. of bulk mercury sent out for recycling. BMC plans to continue phase out of mercury containing sphygmomanometers as well as to continue exploring alternatives for equipment and chemical reagents which currently contain mercury. BMC estimates that their mercury reduction activities have already removed 90% of all mercury containing items hospital wide. In addition, BMC is being recognizing under the Partners for Change program for its battery recycling program. In 1998, BMC recycled 1,098. lbs of lead acid batteries and through September 1999 BMC recycled 575 lbs. of lead acid and 30 lbs. of Nickel-Cadmium batteries.

## massachusetts partners

**Franklin Medical Center**

164 High Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
Tel: (413) 794-5229

Contact: Mary B. Glavin

- Sole acute care hospital
- 96 beds
- 20 bassinets

Franklin Medical Center (FMC) is being recognized for its mercury reduction activities which eliminated virtually all mercury containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers hospital wide. FMC will continue to explore alternatives for equipment and chemical reagents that are currently utilized which contain mercury. FMC estimates that their mercury reduction activities have removed 95% of the mercury containing items hospital wide.

**Mary Lane Hospital**

85 South Street  
Ware, MA

Tel: (413) 794-5229

Contact: Mary B. Glavin

- Small, rural community based hospital
- 31 beds

Mary Lane Hospital is being recognized for its mercury reduction activities which include conversion of all mercury containing blood pressure cuffs hospital wide. Mary Lane Hospital plans to continue exploring alternatives and estimates that their mercury reduction activities have removed 95% of the mercury containing items.

**Harrington Memorial Hospital**

100 South Street  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
Tel: (508) 765-9771

Contact: Ross B. Anderson

- General community hospital
- 113 beds

Harrington Memorial Hospital is being recognized for its mercury reduction achievements including the elimination of mercury products in pharmacy. In addition, the hospital is investigating vendors to help with recycling mercury products currently in use. Harrington Memorial is considering the replacement of mercury sphygmomanometers. The hospital's Lab had already undertaken eliminating many mercury containing products from their department. The hospital's goals include developing a cradle to grave (purchase to disposal) policies for mercury containing products and expanding mercury recycling efforts to include a larger number of mercury containing products.

## application

1

NAME

TITLE

NAME OF FACILITY

ADDRESS

PHONE

FAX

E-MAIL ADDRESS

2

Date:

3

How did you hear about this program?

4

Describe the type and size of your facility (number of employees).

5

Have you performed a baseline inventory?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Date of inventory \_\_\_\_\_

6

Attach a copy of your facility's mercury goals in terms of reduction from the baseline inventory. Is your goal in terms of: (check all that apply)

\_\_\_ reduction in mercury use \_\_\_ mercury disposal  
\_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

7

Do you have an action plan?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Saint Vincent Hospital is being recognized for its mercury reduction plan, which includes replacing wall-mounted blood pressure units in patient areas by August 2000, replacing mercoid switches in thermostats with non-mercury switches, purchasing low mercury content lighting, purchasing zero mercury added batteries, stopping the purchase of oral/rectal mercury thermometers and replacing mercury esophageal dilators with a non-mercury alternative. The hospital is also being recognized under the Partners for Change program for its alkaline battery recycling program launched in June 1998. Saint Vincent is building upon its commitment to improve environmental responsibility through recycling programs. The hospital has instituted several recycling programs over the years including: reduction of regulated medical (red bag) waste program in 1996, a wood recycling program in December 1993, paper recycling in 1994, and cardboard recycling in 1990.

massachusetts partners

# Heywood Hospital

242 Green Street  
Gardner, MA 01440  
Tel: (978) 630-6222

- 141 beds

Heywood Hospital is being recognized under the Mercury Challenge program for its mercury reduction achievements which include: 1) developing a purchasing policy to stop the purchase of mercury at the front door, 2) managing waste streams better through waste minimization and better segregation and 3) improving the management of fluorescent bulbs. The hospital had already eliminated the use of mercury thermometers and replaced 80% of its mercury blood pressure devices with mercury free aneroids. The hospital's overall goal is to become mercury free and to ensure appropriate management protocols are in place if a substitute is not possible.

## New England Medical Center

750 Washington Street  
PO Box 834  
Boston, MA  
Tel: (617) 636-5024

Contact: Michele Plante

- Tertiary care teaching facility
- approx. 500 beds

New England Medical Center is being recognized under the Mercury Challenge program for its mercury reduction achievements including the development of a mercury elimination plan for the facility as well as a mercury awareness program for nurse management, research administrators, clinical laboratory administrators, anatomical pathology physicians, residents and other staff. The hospital had already eliminated the use of mercury thermometers with a few exceptions, thermostats and many laboratory operation applications. In addition, NEMC purchased aneroid blood pressure units for many of the clinics and unbreakable glass mercury sphygmomanometers for its north and south buildings. The hospital's overall goal is to eliminate mercury from its wastestreams with a commitment to stop its purchase at the front door and a promise to continue to micromanage mercury where substitution is not an option.

## resources

Need some help getting started on your mercury reduction program. Then get our Mercury Challenge Pocketbook. The pocketbook has examples of the general types of activities you can implement to promote mercury reductions. Plus, you'll find listings for help lines, hotlines, state contacts, publications and web sites. And it's free. Call us toll-free at 888-372-7341 for your copy.

Please join us as a Partner for Change in the Mercury Challenge. Let's work together and show others by example that everyone can make a difference.

## notes and numbers

Please use this additional space to jot down names of environmental contacts or ideas you may have about your facility and mercury reduction.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

## the program

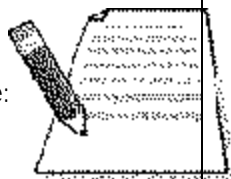
**C Action plan** Each facility should develop an action plan outlining your reduction goal for mercury, the steps you plan to take to achieve the mercury goals and time frames for achieving your mercury goal. Your action plan does not need to be submitted to EPA.

**D Track progress** To receive recognition from the program in a particular year, the facility should report on the measurable progress made that year towards achieving the mercury reduction goal. Submit a summary of accomplishments. Some **examples** include:

- U** if you eliminated mercury thermometers, how many have been replaced,
- U** if you have started to phase out the use of mercury sphygmomanometers, how many were replaced, or
- U** if you started a recycling program for fluorescent lights how much did you recycle that year.

These activities should result in a substantial and permanent environmentally beneficial change to the way you do business.

**E Application** Fill out the application and tell us what you did, how the activity met the Partners for Change: Mercury Challenge requirements. Document the positive results.



## the reward

If your activities demonstrate a commitment to and progress towards environmental improvements, these are the benefits you will receive as a Mercury Challenge Partner.

- Ø** A decal to show the community that you are an EPA Partner for Change in the Mercury Challenge.
- U** A certificate of recognition.
- U** Inclusion in the Partners-to-Partners Directory so you can network with other like-minded people.
- U** Inclusion in EPA press releases to regional newspapers, trade journals and other publications.
- U** The right to market yourself as a Mercury Challenge Partner for Change in your advertising and marketing materials.



## massachusetts partners

**Wing Memorial Hospital and Medical Centers**

40 Wright Street

Palmer, MA 01069

Tel: (413) 283-7651

Contact: Ron Krystofik

- 50 bed hospital
- 4 outlying medical centers

Wing Memorial Hospital and Medical Centers is being recognized under the Mercury Challenge program for its mercury reduction plan which includes: 1) finding an alternative to patient thermometers that contain mercury or recycling these items if no suitable alternative can be found, 2) recycling switches that contain mercury when the switches are replaced, 3) finding alternatives to lab reagents that contain mercury, and 4) developing policies for purchasing products that do not contain mercury. The hospital has already replaced all fluorescent lights with non-mercury units. In addition, all mercury batteries were replaced with safer products.

## new hampshire partners

**Wentworth Douglass Hospital**

789 Central Avenue

Dover, NH 03820

Tel: (603) 740-2462

Contact: Allan Crandall

- Trauma II hospital
- 178 beds

Wentworth Douglass Hospital is being recognized under the Mercury Challenge program for its mercury reduction achievements including the reduction in the amount of mercury sphygmomanometers and mercury thermometers used in the hospital. In addition, the hospital changed to "mercury safe" green bulbs which are still recycled. Also, as of March 2000 the hospital eliminated approximately 1,000 mercury glass thermometers per year from the Birth Center and Pediatrics by no longer using or sending them home in O.B. kits. Since the mercury reduction efforts started at Wentworth Douglas, the hospital has reduced the number of mercury sphygmomanometers by 50%. The hospital's overall goal is to reduce 50% of its mercury by 2001 and 95% of its mercury by 2003.

## new hampshire partners

**Franklin Regional Hospital**

15 Aiken Avenue  
Franklin, NH 03235-1299  
Tel: (603) 934-2060

Contact: Katharine Fuller

- Rural hospital
- 49 beds

Franklin Regional Hospital is being recognized under the Mercury Challenge program for its mercury reduction achievements including the adoption of a purchasing policy statement of "No medical equipment containing mercury will be purchased." In addition, the hospital immediately removed from service mercury thermometers in many areas of the hospital. The hospital has also been educating both employees and their community about mercury pollution. The hospital's overall goal is to reduce the utilization of mercury within the hospital and to promote a healthier community environment by reducing mercury utilization within the community.

## vermont partners

**Porter Medical Center**

115 Porter Drive  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
Tel: (802) 388-4781

Contact: David Begans

- 50 bed hospital
- 10 satellite locations

Porter Medical Center is being recognized under the Mercury Challenge program for its plan to remove all mercury containing thermometers, sphygmomanometers, diffusion pumps, mercury oxide batteries and gastrointestinal tubes as replacements are identified. As of January 2000, the medical center has replaced all blood pressure monitors with mercury free type monitors and about 98 % of its thermometers. All mercury oxide batteries have been replaced with non-mercury batteries. The medical center's satellite locations also have replaced all blood pressure monitors with mercury free monitors.

## the program

**WHAT IS THE PARTNERS FOR CHANGE:  
MERCURY CHALLENGE?**

Mercury is a concern not only in the northeast but across the nation. That's why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New England Office is using its existing Partners for Change program to focus on mercury reductions. It's a way for New England medical facilities to discover and to implement responsible environmental practices for mercury and to receive community recognition for those good efforts. The Partners for Change: Mercury Challenge is open to any medical facility in New England. Facilities commit to meet their own specified reduction goals and agree to make good faith voluntary efforts to identify and implement pollution prevention measures.

To become recognized as a Mercury Challenge Partner, follow these steps:

**A Baseline inventory** Each facility should examine its operations to identify all sources of mercury in use, storage or being purchased including mercury found in equipment, instruments, and products. This inventory will help identify the location, number and type of mercury containing devices and products within your facility. A list of typical mercury sources in a health care setting and information about mercury sources can be provided along with things that you may want to consider when doing a baseline inventory. This inventory will serve as the baseline for the program, but does not need to be submitted to EPA.

**B Mercury goal** Each facility should develop and submit to EPA its own quantifiable mercury goal which can be part of your overall environmental goals. The mercury goal should be practical and measurable based on your specific needs as identified by your inventory. Your mercury goal could be expressed in reduction of the overall amount of mercury used or disposed compared to baseline inventory results. In the establishment of your mercury goal you may want to consider evaluating the economic impact of the presence of mercury against the cost and impacts of mercury-free alternatives. The mercury goal should be communicated to all employees.